

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ICRC, VM, CB
SUBJECT: RED CROSS (ICRC) APPEAL FOR VIETNAM

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY OF "RESTRICTED APPEAL"
ISSUED BY ICRC TO FOLLOWING SELECTED GOVERNMENTS AND
NATIONAL SOCIETIES "IN LIGHT OF NEW CONFLICT SITUATION":
ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA,
CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY
(GDR), GERMANY (FRG), GREAT BRITAIN, HUNGARY, JAPAN,
NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SWEDEN,
SWITZERLAND, USA, USSR, AND YUGOSLAVIA.

2. APPEAL IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN SUMMARY:

A. AFTER RECENT BORDER CLASHES, ICRC ASKED KAMPUCHEA
AND VIETNAM FOR PERMISSION TO ASSIST PRISONERS AND OTHER
VICTIMS OF CONFLICT. VIETNAM IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND TWO
ICRC DELEGATES SPENT MAY 17-19 IN VIETNAM WHERE THEY
VISITED BORDER AREAS, ACCOMPANIED
BY ICRC CHIEF DELEGATE IN HANOI, AND INTERVIEWED PRISONERS.
VIETNAM HAS AGREED TO AUTHORIZE FURTHER VISITS TO OTHER
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CENTERS WHERE KAMPUCHEANS HELD.

B. DELEGATES VISITED AREAS WHERE DISPLACED PERSONS
(DP'S) LOCATED AND CONFIRMED THERE ARE URGENT NEEDS FOR
MEDICAMENTS, FOOD AND CLOTHING, IN THAT ORDER OF PRIORITY,
FOR SOME 725,000 DP'S NOT INCLUDING 150,000 KAMPUCHEAN

REFUGEES WITH WHOM UNHCR CONCERNED AND FOR WHOM IT HAS MADE EMERGENCY ALLOCATION OF ONE MILLION SWISS FRANCS FOR THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

C. AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES (LICROSS) AND UNHCR, AND IN VIEW OF URGENCY, ICRC TAKING FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE ACTION:

(1) ARRANGING FOR PURCHASE IN FAR EAST AND AIR TRANSPORT TO HO CHI MINH VILLE OF FIRST ADVANCE CONSIGNMENT OF MEDICAMENTS WORTH 100,000 SWISS FRANCE, BUT MUCH MORE NEEDED.

(2) DISCUSSING URGENTLY WITH EEC AND FAO EARLY SHIPMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF RICE, CEREALS AND MILK POWDER.

(3) LAUNCHING THIS URGENT APPEAL FOR AID IN CASH OR IN KIND.

D. AT REQUEST OF SRV AND (VIETNAMESE) RED CROSS ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE DELIVERED TO HO CHI MINH VILLE AND THEREAFTER DISTRIBUTED AND HANDLED BY SRV RED CROSS WHICH IS ALREADY DEPLOYED AND ACTIVE IN AFFECTED AREA. SPECIAL MARKINGS TO FACILITATE TRACING, CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. ICRC DELEGATION IN HANOI HAS "CLOSEST COOPERATION" WITH SRV RED CROSS, AND IS BEING GRANTED ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES.

E. ICRC ALSO PROPOSES TO OFFER MEDICAL DELEGATE OR UNCLASSIFIED

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TEAM TO ASSIST IN VACCINATION CAMPAIGN OR OTHER MEDICAL ACTIVITY DESIRED.

F. ALTHOUGH LEAGUE AND ICRC HAVE CERTAIN FUNDS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF JOINT OPERATION, COORDINATED BY INDSEC, THEY ARE VIRTUALLY ALL COMMITTED TO ON-GOING PROJECTS AND REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM WAR ENDING IN APRIL 1975. ICRC WITH LEAGUE AGREEMENT, NEVERTHELESS, DRAWING ON THESE FUNDS AS TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT TO MEET THIS NEW CONFLICT SITUATION AND RESPOND TO MOST URGENT NEEDS WHILE SEEKING HELP OF SOCIETIES AND POTENTIAL DONOR GOVERNMENTS.

G. VIRTUALLY ALL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE PURCHASED MORE QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY IN FAR EAST, BUT SHOULD ANY SOCIETIES OR GOVERNMENT WISH RESPOND WITH OFFER IN KIND, FULL LIST OF MEDICAMENTS AND OTHER SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SIX-MONTH PERIOD IS ATTACHED.

END SUMMARY.

3. MISSION AIR POUCHING TEXT OF APPEAL AND ATTACHMENT

TO DEPARTMENT (HA).
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